

Mission and Goals

40% of foster youth graduate high school, and only 3% graduate college.

More than half of foster youth report \$0 in wages in the first 4 years after leaving the system.

Those employed earn only \$700 a month, on average, by age 24.

Mission

The Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC) leverages collective cross-sector and community-based leadership and investments of the Los Angeles region to improve pathways to education and employment for transition-age foster youth (TAY), ages 16 - 24.

By **coordinating services, leveraging community resources, aligning strategies and improving policies**, L.A. Opportunity Youth partners break down siloed systems and establish sustainable reforms to improve three outcomes for transition-age foster youth in L.A. County:

1. **High school graduation and GED attainment**
2. **Postsecondary enrollment and credential completion**
3. **Workforce readiness and gainful employment**

Framework

Based on the Collective Impact model, OYC will improve outcomes for TAY by:

1. **Collaborating for Impact**
Collective ownership of a common agenda among cross-agency leaders; businesses; funders; and, youth who have not historically worked together.
2. **Building Effective Pathways**
Building a continuum of care for TAY that overcomes system barriers, and creates bridges to high school completion, higher education, and gainful employment.
3. **Using Data to Guide Decisions and Assess Impact**
Collection, analysis, and reporting of common metrics, TAY access to services, and outcomes.
4. **Leveraging Funding to Support and Sustain Innovation**
Leverage existing resources to secure new public and private investments for TAY.
5. **Creating Policy and Systems Alignment**
Developing a shared agenda for local, state, and federal policy advocacy and systems reform.

For more information, contact OYC Director Carol Chodroff at c.chodroff@kids-alliance.org or 213.368.6010.

OYC Partners, including: Government Agencies, Advocacy and Community-Based Organizations, Workforce Centers, School Districts, Higher Education, Philanthropists, and Advisors

(List is in formation)

Alliance for Children's Rights	EduCare
Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation	First Star Academy
Aspen Institute Opportunity Youth Investment Fund	iFoster
Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services	L.A. Chamber of Commerce
Boyle Heights Youth Opportunity Movement	L.A. City College
CA College Pathways/John Burton Foundation	L.A. County Community and Senior Services / L.A. County Workforce Investment Board
California Youth Connection	L.A. Department of Children and Family Services
Center for Engagement, Service, and the Public Good – Cal State L.A.	L.A. Trade Tech College
Child Welfare Initiative	L.A. Unified School District
Children, Youth and Family Collaborative	National Center for Youth Law/Foster Ed
Children's Action Network	National Foster Youth Institute
Children's Institute, Inc.	Para Los Niños
Children's Law Center of California	Public Counsel
Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD)	The Right Way Foundation
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation	Santa Monica College
Corporation for Supportive Housing	Stuart Foundation
Court Appointed Special Advocates/CASA	TAY Workforce Collaborative
Economic and Workforce Development Department/ L.A. City Workforce Investment Board	United Friends of the Children